

Code of Professional Conduct for Court Interpreters

Chapter 48 of the Iowa Court Rules -- Canons only (2010)

Canon 1 – Accuracy and Completeness: An interpreter shall render a complete and accurate interpretation or sight translation by reproducing in the target language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, without altering, omitting, or adding anything to the meaning of what is stated or written, and without explanation.

Canon 2 – Representation of Qualifications: An interpreter shall accurately and completely represent the interpreter’s certification, training, and experience. An interpreter shall promptly report to the director of the office of professional regulation any disciplinary action taken against the interpreter in any other jurisdiction.

Canon 3 – Impartiality and Avoidance of Conflict of Interest: An interpreter shall be impartial and unbiased and shall refrain from conduct that may give an appearance of bias. An interpreter shall disclose any real or perceived conflict of interest.

Canon 4 – Professional Demeanor: An interpreter shall act in a manner consistent with the dignity of the court.

Canon 5 – Confidentiality: An interpreter shall protect the confidentiality of all privileged and other confidential information.

Canon 6 – Restriction of Public Comment: An interpreter shall not publicly discuss, report, or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which the interpreter is or has been engaged, even when that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential, except to facilitate training and education.

Canon 7 – Scope of Practice: While serving as an interpreter, an interpreter shall limit the interpreter’s conduct to interpreting or translating and shall not give legal advice, express personal opinions to individuals for whom interpreting services are being provided, or engage in other activities which may be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating.

Canon 8 – Assessing and Reporting Impediments to Performance: An interpreter shall assess at all times the interpreter’s ability to deliver interpreting services. When an interpreter has any reservation about the interpreter’s ability to satisfy an assignment competently, the interpreter shall immediately convey that reservation to the appropriate judicial authority.

Canon 9 – Duty to Report Ethical Violations: An interpreter shall report to the proper judicial authority any effort to impede the interpreter’s compliance with any law, any provision of this Code of Conduct, or any other official policy governing court interpreting and translating.

Canon 10 – Professional Development: An interpreter shall strive to become more skillful and knowledgeable and advance the profession through activities such as professional training and education and interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields.